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the Benefactor

A Newsletter for Benefactors of the University of Arkansas



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Vol. 12, Issue 1, Summer 2010

Reynolds Foundation Honors Distinguished Alumnus

\$10 MILLION GRANT IMPACTS FAY JONES SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

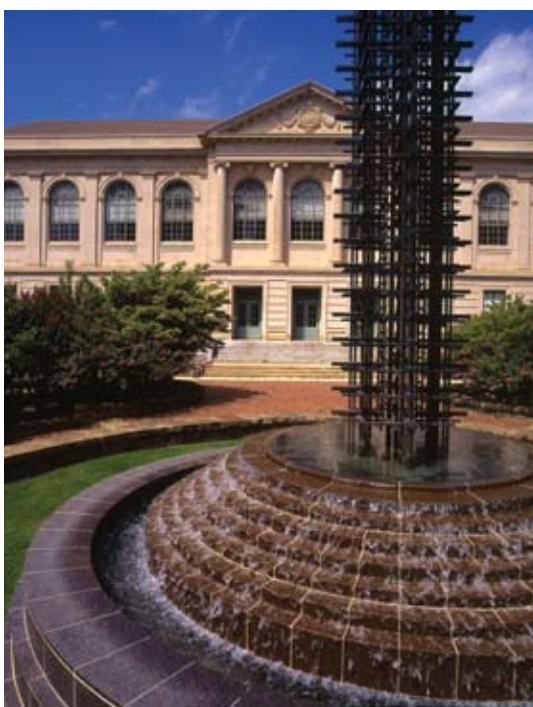
A \$10 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation in Las Vegas will be used to help the Fay Jones School of Architecture grow by providing funds for a much-needed addition to Vol Walker Hall.

The addition will be named the Steven L. Anderson Design Center, pending University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approval, in honor of the foundation's president. Anderson is a 1976 graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Architecture.

The Fay Jones School of Architecture is housed in Vol Walker Hall, which was completed in 1935 as the University of Arkansas library. It is one of the most beautiful and iconic buildings on campus and has been home to the architecture school since 1968. Since that time the school's growth has spilled over forcing the placement of the landscape architecture department in a separate building. The addition will enable the school to house under one roof the architecture and landscape architecture departments and the interior design program, which is slated to move to the school July 1.

The planned construction of the 31,000-square-foot Steven L. Anderson Design Center is expected to cost \$12.9 million, while a concurrent renovation of Vol Walker Hall has been estimated at \$19.8 million, bringing the total cost of the project to an estimated \$32.7 million. The university has committed \$18.7 million toward the project, an example of how the campus facilities fee is being used to help pay for deferred maintenance and renovation for specific capital improvements.

"Words cannot express how grateful we are for the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation," said Jeff Shannon, dean of the Fay Jones School of Architecture. "Because of this grant and the subsequent addition, we will be able to increase our enrollment by 26 percent in the coming years. We will also be able to bring together our architecture, landscape architecture and, soon, the interior design programs under one roof. The experiences of our students



Vol Walker Hall sits adjacent to the Peace Fountain designed by Fay Jones.

will be forever changed, and they will be encouraged and able to collaborate in a whole new way."

DesignIntelligence, a leading design publication, ranked the Fay Jones School of Architecture among the country's top 20 architecture and design schools for 2009. For 2010, the magazine named the school one of five "hidden gems" of architecture education.

"As our architecture school continues to compete as one of the best in the nation, it should have a facility to reflect this caliber," said Chancellor G. David Gearhart. "Capital improvements of this scale can seem out of reach, particularly when countless projects and programs around campus need funding. We rely on private gift support to make some of our plans for the university a reality. The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has been one of our most generous campus benefactors, and I'd like to offer our sincere thanks for this support. The sky is truly the limit now for our top-tier architecture program, its diverse course offerings and our exceptional students and faculty.

"We are proposing to name the addition for Donald W. Reynolds Foundation president Steven L.

Anderson, an alumnus and friend of the university, to honor the profound impact he has had on literally hundreds of organizations across America, not to mention his well respected acumen as an architect practitioner," Gearhart said.

"Our trustees have chosen to honor 16 years of service by our fellow trustee and president, Steven L. Anderson with the award of this special grant," stated Donald W. Reynolds Foundation Chairman Fred W. Smith. "Steve's commitment to the University of Arkansas and the Fay Jones School of Architecture make this a particularly appropriate way for us to recognize his contributions to the many successful programs of the foundation during that time. ■

A CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE

As the University of Arkansas seeks to provide financial assistance for the many students who struggle to afford a higher education, the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation has given \$1 million to establish the Pat and Willard Walker Need-Based Scholarship Challenge, which will make a substantial difference in helping students achieve their goals. One third of every gift made to Access Arkansas will be matched by the foundation's gift until all funds are used.

In 2007, the university launched Access Arkansas, a program committed to raising money for need-based scholarship support, particularly for undergraduate students.

"Our foundation supports initiatives that better the lives of others, and we believe in supporting students and encouraging others to do the same," said Debbie Walker, executive director of the foundation. "The partnership we have enjoyed with the university for many years is one I hope continues for a long time. I cannot wait to see the difference made in students' lives because of this gift and because of the Access Arkansas initiative

as a whole. It is a rewarding experience to be involved in improving the lives of others and, by supporting this initiative, we are supporting the well-being of the entire state."

At the University of Arkansas, data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which analyzes a family's ability to pay for college, reveal that the average funding gap for students who meet the Access Arkansas criteria has risen from \$9,050 in academic year 2006 to \$11,770 in academic year 2009. Exit interviews for the past four academic years show that nearly 30 percent of interviewed withdrawing students worked 40 or more hours a week while attending the university. On average, another 37 percent worked between 11 hours and 39 hours each week. For the students who are able to remain in school, the average student's undergraduate debt upon graduating is approximately \$20,000.

The Walkers created the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation in 1986. Since that time, their generosity has touched the lives of thousands of Arkansans, and their impact on the University of Arkansas has been tremendous. ■

Access Arkansas
Helping University of Arkansas students achieve their dreams step by step



Thoughts from the chair...

I attended the second Silas Hunt Legacy Awards Celebration in Little Rock this spring, hosted by the University of Arkansas to honor African Americans who have made and continue to make a difference for the institution and across the state, and I was touched by the connections — old and new — in the space around me.



Debbie Walker

It is no secret that the University of Arkansas strives to create a diverse campus where students, faculty and staff benefit from interacting with every kind of person: every age, race, religion, political view, socioeconomic level ... you name it. There is beauty in difference, and as the state's flagship institution, we place great importance on offering an educational experience that prepares our students to thrive in a richly diverse society. This journey includes forming relationships with people whose cultures and experiences may not mirror our own.

Diversity is more than a buzzword, and its meaning goes well beyond numbers on a chart. Certainly, we want to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations so our campus better reflects the diversity of our state. But, the impact of diversity is much deeper.

Charles Robinson, the university's vice provost of diversity, is working diligently to illustrate and communicate the university's commitment to diversity. He talks to prospective and current students, faculty, staff and benefactors every day about the benefits of building a more diverse campus. Although much of Robinson's efforts are local for now, the work does not stop at the borders of our campus. We truly are stepping up to improve our state, and we are turning our words into action. I encourage every member of the University of Arkansas community to help us as we educate the world about the university's work to create a campus that is a factual representation of our global reality so our students are prepared and excited for what their futures hold.

Alumni and friends are stepping up to the challenge as well. Programs that promote and preserve diversity on campus rely heavily on private support. As you'll read in this issue of *The Benefactor*, the diversity initiatives on campus recently received \$400,000 from 1976 alumnus Richard Greene of Fayetteville. I hope his outstanding generosity motivates others to get involved. Smaller gifts come together to make a big difference, so believe me when I tell you that your gift matters to the students on our campus today and the students who will become Razorbacks in the future. I hope you will join me along this special journey.

Sincerely,

Debbie Walker

Debbie Walker, Chair
Board of Advisors

Keys to Student Success

ARKANSAS BECOMES ALL-STEINWAY SCHOOL

The University of Arkansas has made a commitment to becoming an All-Steinway School, providing students and faculty with the highest quality pianos for instruction and performance. As the third institution in the Southeastern Conference and one of only 113 colleges and universities in the world to attain this honor, the university will acquire all Steinway brand pianos, which are the preferred instruments of more than 99 percent of the concert artists worldwide.



Jura Margulis plays a Steinway.

"Steinway pianos open up new worlds of sound," said Jura Margulis, holder of the Emily J. McAllister Endowed Professorship in Piano. "I'm excited to watch these instruments spark our students' imaginations and transform their performances."

Today, University of Arkansas faculty teach more than 315 music majors and minors in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, all of whom must have proficiencies in piano and be supported by trained piano accompanists. Providing students and faculty members with exceptional equipment allows for the best instruction possible, which drove the University of Arkansas' commitment to become an All-Steinway School.

"Our desire to develop and nurture current students' and faculty members' talents as they become the best they can be is only enhanced by providing them with the finest resources in their fields," said University of Arkansas Chancellor G.

David Gearhart. "We aim to recruit the top music students across the country and around the world as well as the most gifted musicians available to teach our students, and we now know that they will be training and performing on the highest quality pianos available. This initiative truly takes our university and our offerings to a new level of excellence. I am proud to be a part of the University of Arkansas during such an exciting time."

Becoming an All-Steinway School will cost the University of Arkansas \$1.3 million, all of which will be raised through private support. To date, \$200,000 has been raised. In addition to gifts from individual benefactors, undesignated gifts received through the Chancellor's Society — a program that recognizes alumni and friends who make a significant annual commitment to the future of the university — may be directed to this initiative. ■

Alumnus Generously Supports Diversity Initiatives on Campus

The efforts to enhance the diversity of the University of Arkansas student body will be strengthened by a \$400,000 gift by alumnus Richard Greene. Greene's gift will augment diversity initiatives at the University of Arkansas and provide educational opportunities to diverse populations in the state of Arkansas through the establishment of new campus programs.

The diversity programs are twofold: the first honors Richard's parents and will be named the Camden E. and Dortha Sue Greene Foundation Scholarship. The second will be the Richard E. Greene Razorback Bridge Outreach Program. The scholarship will be awarded to academically eligible candidates from underrepresented populations in the state of Arkansas beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year. The scholarships will be renewable provided the recipient remains in good standing. Special components of the scholarship include ambassadorial responsibilities and participation in a formal mentoring program, monitored through the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and the University of Arkansas Multicultural Center.

The Razorback Bridge program will be a component of the scholarship in that it will provide funding for an experiential trip to a location of historical significance such as Washington, D.C., Detroit, Kansas City or Atlanta, during the scholar's time at the university. The program will also provide funding to assist with recruiting future students to the university.



Charles Robinson, Richard Greene, Connor Greene and Bill Schwab visit during an event held in Richard Greene's honor.

"Richard Greene's generosity will go a long way toward strengthening our institutional diversity efforts," said Charles Robinson, vice provost for diversity. "The University of Arkansas is committed to inclusivity, and this gift sends a message to people across the state that they are welcome on our campus."

Greene, a 1976 University of Arkansas graduate in business, has three daughters, Carrie Greene Eggart, Christie Greene Osborne and Berkley Greene, and two sons, Connor and Clay. Greene has previously supported the Chancellor's Scholarship Program and did so in the memory of his parents, Camden and Sue Greene, who died in 2001. ■



Stephenses = Thoroughreds

CONSECUTIVE GIVING RECOGNITION PROGRAM BEGINS



Larry and Gwen Stephens

The university often looks for creative ways to recognize alumni and friends who truly understand the impact private gifts have on our institution.

This year, the office of annual programs has launched Thoroughreds, a program that celebrates consecutive, annual giving of three years or longer with gifts of any size. Through this program, we are able to see the incredible loyalty that exists throughout the University of Arkansas family.

One couple's track record of giving to the university really caught the attention of the office of annual programs. Larry Stephens and his wife, Gwen, of Hot Springs — the place they met — have been giving to the university for 32 years.

As loyal Razorback fans, the couple enjoy traveling with friends who are Road

Hogs (people who travel to sporting events in RVs to support the University of Arkansas).

Larry and Gwen consider the University of Arkansas to be their home away from home.

"We are a University of Arkansas family," said Larry, a 1958 graduate of the College of Engineering. "Both of our children graduated from the university, and we are all connected in business and personal relationships to friends we met during our time there. The campus is a fun place to be at any time of the year, but more specifically, the university gave us a good education that makes us want to give something back in return."

The Stephenses want their gifts to assist with student educational opportunities whether in the form of scholarships, lab equipment or instructor salaries. They want the university to grow its reputation across the nation and around the world, all the while providing students with the best education possible so they are able to secure high-quality job opportunities after graduation.

The Stephenses are A+ Life Members of the Arkansas Alumni Association, and they were inducted into the Towers of Old Main in 2007. Larry Stephens has served as a board member of the alumni association, and he is a current member of the Dean's Advisory Council in the College of Engineering. ■

Honoring a Legacy



(L-r): Jordan, Brewer, Brazzell, Williams

The University of Arkansas recently celebrated the legacy of Silas Hunt, the first black student in modern times to attend a major Southern public university when he was admitted to the School of Law.

Honored at the April 23 event at The Peabody Little Rock were Johnetta Cross Brazzell of McDonough, Ga., Ronald Charles Brewer, Jr. of Memphis, Tenn. and Fayetteville, Ark., Gerald B. Jordan of Fayetteville, Ark., and Lonnie Ray Williams of Jonesboro, Ark.

This moving celebration, themed "Be Inspired," would not have been possible without the sponsors listed at right. ■



FROM RECRUITMENT TO GRADUATION: A CARING COMMUNITY

The Engineering Career Awareness Program in the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas proves that, for some students, there truly is strength in numbers. The college's recruitment-to-graduation initiative was designed to help grow the undergraduate student body in terms of quantity, diversity and overall quality by combining several proven recruitment and retention strategies into one cohesive program.

The program, greatly dependent on private gift support, was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation.

"The Walmart Foundation is proud to provide the opportunity for more students to participate in the Engineering Career Awareness Program," said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. "At Walmart, we understand education is critical to the lives and well-being of all Americans."

"The Engineering Career Awareness Program has, in many ways, already exceeded every expectation I had," said Ashok Saxena, dean of the College of Engineering, "but now that we are aware of the possibilities, the sky is the limit. This support from the Walmart Foundation means even more students can feel the impact of ECAP and can pursue successful careers in the field. I



ECAP students benefit from living-learning communities and internship programs.

am grateful to the foundation, and I hope they will watch with excitement as ECAP students continue to thrive in the classroom and accomplish great things as alumni."

Since the inception of ECAP, data consistently show that, on average, ECAP students are more successful than the engineering freshman class as a whole, with statistically significant differences in both retention and grade point average.

ECAP recruitment strategies include community-focused outreach efforts to educate students and their families about the professional and personal opportunities made available through an engineering education. Alumni ambassadors help with recruitment in their respective communities, and scholarship and financial

aid information is disseminated to students from underrepresented groups to help them navigate the world of college applications and admissions.

Once students are accepted to the university and become a part of the program, they benefit from a retention plan that includes summer bridge programming, a living-learning community, need-based scholarship support and real-life experiences through paid co-op positions and targeted internships. Scholarship dollars are provided to ECAP students to supplement their existing financial aid packages. ■



Students Help Fayetteville Go Green

Three buildings in Fayetteville are becoming more sustainable thanks to the installation of solar panels, and University of Arkansas students are making it happen. The University of Arkansas Enterprise Center, the Fayetteville Public Library and a Fayetteville district court building will be equipped to use the natural energy of the sun to create energy, save money and positively impact the environment.

“Thanks to a significant discount on the solar panels and installation racks from BP Solar and UniRac, we are able to carry out our vision for improved sustainability in the community,” said Alan Mantooth, professor of electrical engineering at the University of Arkansas. “Getting students involved with a project of such importance is a bonus. This is a fantastic opportunity to incorporate

teaching into a hands-on experience that brings textbook information to life.”

“BP is a proud to be part of this innovative initiative to transform Fayetteville’s rooftops into green energy plants,” said Tony Huffman, director of strategic cooperations for BP. “It’s a fantastic way to engage the students and community to help lead us towards a cleaner energy future.”

Discussions about this project began in 2009.

Partners include AEP/SWEPCO, Arkansas Energy Office, Arkansas Power Electronics International, BP Solar, Campbell Electric, Engineering Consultants Inc., Garver Engineering, Multi-Craft Contractors, National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission, Unirac and United Rentals.■



Photo: Kate Sutterfield

A solar panel is installed at the Fayetteville Public Library.

FOR THE LOVE OF STUDENTS



Bob and Donna Bron

Hot Springs Village residents Bob and Donna Bron are private people who have a passion for gardening and education. To provide financial support to students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college degree, the Brons' bequest establishes an endowed scholarship fund for undergraduate students at the University of Arkansas in agriculture, architecture, mathematics, the physical sciences, teaching, business or engineering.

The need-based scholarship — which will cover books, tuition and fees — is renewable, provided the student is making satisfactory progress toward his or her degree. The Brons know that for many students, scholarship assistance is the crucial factor for completing their educational programs.

The pair’s bequest also establishes a substantial endowment to Garvan Woodland Garden in Hot Springs, specifying that it only be used to enhance education projects and programs. Partnering with the gardens by donating money for educational programming was a natural union for the couple, who know firsthand the value of learning.

For Donna, a Master Gardener and co-chair of Foundation Lake School Youth Committee, reconnecting kids to nature is of primary importance. The couple visualizes the gardens employing interactive programs that will get kids outdoors and learning more about nature.

“They are hungry for knowledge,” Donna Bron says. ■

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Brad Choate
Vice Chancellor
University Advancement
(479) 575-6800

Bruce Pontious
Associate Vice Chancellor
University Development
(479) 575-7206

Mark Power
Executive Director of
Development and Principal Gifts
University Development
(479) 575-5064

Office of University Development
University House
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville AR 72701-1201
(479) 575-5507
or 800-317-7526
FAX (479) 575-6198

Editorial Staff
Danielle Strickland
Communications Manager
Laura Bennett
Designer
Russell Cothren
Photographer

